

REMARKS

As a preliminary, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner and her Supervisor for the personal interview of November 8, 2006.

By the present amendment, a substitute specification with complete top and bottom lines of all pages is being submitted, and a substitute abstract with corrected grammar is also submitted.

Further, claim 1 has been clarified in that the polarizer comprises a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase, wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material, and wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix. Support for the added recitations is found in the original application, for example, pages 66-67 of the specification.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

In the Office Action, the specification and the abstract are objected to. It is alleged that vowels are missing on the first and last lines of many pages, for example on page 4. In the abstract, correction of "provide" to "provides" and "And the polarizer" to "The polarizer" on line 6, "have" to "has" on line 7, and "being" to "is" on line 8 are requested.

A substitute specification without the missing letters is submitted with this response. Further, the abstract has been amended as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objections should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-9, and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 2002/0084447A1 to Taguchi et al. ("Taguchi"), and claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Taguchi in view of WO2001/55753A to Ito et al. ("Ito").

It is alleged in the Office Action that, in Taguchi, the matrix is the binder polymer with at least one dye aggregate, and the minute domain is at least another aggregate (which is formed by an area of the binder polymer in which the dye is dissolved).

The rejections are respectfully traversed. As recited in present claim 1, the polarizer of the present invention comprises a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase. The continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material. The dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix.

Thus, the construction of the presently claimed invention is very different from Taguchi, in which the minute domain is formed of dye aggregates and the matrix does not comprise any dye. Further, Ito fails to remedy the deficiencies of Taguchi. Therefore, the present claims are not anticipated by Taguchi, and not obvious over Taguchi and Ito taken alone or in any combination.

Further, with respect to the dependent claims, Taguchi and Ito are completely silent as to the combinations of features recited in these respective claims. Therefore, the respective claims are not anticipated by Taguchi, and not obvious over Taguchi and Ito taken alone or in any combination.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/681,384
Attorney Docket No. 032009

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

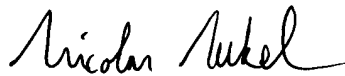
In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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